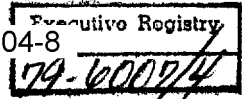



**SECRET**

12 APR 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:


  
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Improving FBIS South Asian Monitoring


REFERENCE: Dr. Brzezinski's 2 April Memorandum

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Here are the requested comments on steps FBIS can take in response to referent memo.

1. With Islamabad at least temporarily out of the picture as a potential monitoring site, FBIS is working on the following options to improve South Asian coverage. In all cases strong, high-level State Department support is a sine qua non. 


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2. With State Department guidance we have identified Dhahran as politically the best site for a permanent FBIS monitoring installation. State on 6 April requested Embassy Jidda and Consulate Dhahran views on the feasibility of establishing such an operation in the very near future. A response is awaited. 

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3. In the event Dhahran is ruled out, State Department suggested Muscat, Oman as a possible alternative. Technically this would be suitable. The Ambassador would have to be instructed to seek Omani views. 

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4. If neither Dhahran nor Oman are achievable sites, State advised we approach the Qatari Government but with Saudi support. This is a longer shot. The Embassy is small and FBIS would be proportionately more visible, but Qatar is a superb site both technically and logistically as shown by TDY and a reception survey in March. The Ambassador who is not particularly receptive to a CIA presence would have to be instructed to make an approach to the Qatari Government. 

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SUBJECT: Improving FBIS South Asian Monitoring

5. While there are some tradeoffs in reception among Dhahran, Muscat and Doha, a Persian Gulf operation would in general (a) enable FBIS to monitor Iranian regional stations in western, central and southern Iran; (b) permit monitoring of republic level Soviet regional stations in the Caucasus and Central Asia; (c) vastly improve reception of Afghanistan and Pakistan domestic broadcasts; (d) permit monitoring of Gulf radios including those of the two Yemens and of clandestine radios in the area; and (e) provide FBIS coverage of the Soviet-based National Voice of Iran. ☐

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6. Because of the breadth of the area of interest involved, there will be gaps in this coverage which will have to be filled from a site in or east of Pakistan. At FBIS request State Department has asked Ambassador Goheen whether the Government of India would approve a sophisticated reception survey in the area. State officials are pessimistic but have asked Goheen to discuss the matter with FBIS when he returns to Washington in April for consultations. ☐

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7. FBIS is planning a technical survey in Kathmandu as an alternative to a site in India or Pakistan, but we have not yet coordinated this proposal with State. ☐

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8. FBIS is alert to the possibility of getting into Islamabad as Dr. Brzezinski suggests, but the timing of any approach will depend upon your judgment of its impact on other Agency goals. ☐

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Director  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service